

Department of Transportation

The Department of Transportation was formed shortly after Hawaii became a state in 1959. It has three divisions, Airports, Harbors and Highways, which are supported by 10 departmental staff offices. The offices are Statewide Transportation Planning, Hazardous Materials, Public Affairs, Visitor Information, PPB Management and Analytical, Personnel, Business Management, Contracts, Computer Systems and Services, and Property Management.

The objective of the Department of Transportation is to facilitate the rapid, safe and economical movement of people and goods into, within, and out of the state by providing and operating transportation facilities and supporting services.

Funding

The DOT is required by law to generate its own monies to fund its programs and projects. Independent special funds were established for each of the three divisions' major programs.

Each fund is expected to generate enough revenue to pay for program operation and maintenance costs and to contribute a fee to the State General Fund for central services. This fee is set at five percent of each special fund's gross revenues after debt service.

Since the Capital Improvement Program is large, the DOT continues to rely on reimbursable General Obligation Bonds and federal aid to help fund programs and projects.

Airport Revenue Fund

The Airport Revenue Fund was created under Section 261-5, HRS. Its primary revenue sources are the aviation fuel tax, landing fees, airport use charges, concession fees, and investment income. Other revenue sources include rentals and miscellaneous earnings.

Harbor Special Fund

The Harbor Special Fund was established under Section 266-19, HRS. The majority of the fund's revenues come from fees and charges for wharfage, dockage, demurrage, and the rental of land and wharf space at the state's commercial harbors. The remaining amount is generated from various service charges, permits and licenses.

Highway Fund

The State Highway Fund was established under Section 248-8 HRS, as amended. The principal sources of revenue are a 16-cent per gallon fuel tax and a vehicle weight tax of 3/4 cent per pound for vehicles weighing less than 4,000 pounds, 1 cent per pound for vehicles between 4,000 and 7,000 pounds, 1 and 1/4 cent per pound for vehicles 7,000 to 10,000 pounds and a flat \$150 for vehicles over 10,000 pounds.